



Youth Matters

Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau



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2007 Search Institute National Conference Coming to Rochester!

The Search Institute has chosen Rochester for their 2007 National Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth Conference November 4-11, 2007. This will be the 11th Annual Search Conference and the first time that Search will be holding their national conference on the East Coast. Search has decided to bring the conference to Rochester as a result of the incredible work our community has accomplished through our Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau (RMCYB) Asset Initiative and the Community Asset Partner Network. The Monroe County Asset Building Initiative has been a national leader in promoting Asset Building throughout the County and New York State. The Search Conference will be attended by youth and adults from the U.S., Canada, and seven other countries. It is anticipated that over 1500 will be in attendance.

We are all very excited to have received this news. It will be a conference that will attract youth and youth advocates from around the world.

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Greetings from Karla Boyce,



Executive Director



I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect upon the Youth Bureau's accomplishments for 2005 and to establish some goals for 2006. The Youth Bureau staff has been extremely busy over the past 12 months. For such a tiny staff, our department has been very

productive in the large world of the Department of Human Services. Despite our size, we do make up for it in speed and brain power and just the sheer passion for the youth of Monroe County.

Most recently, we worked together with our partners of the Youth Services Quality Council to plan this year's Annual YSQC Breakfast at the Hyatt Regency. Both County Executive Maggie Brooks and Mayor William Johnson attended. Maggie and Bill thanked our Council for its hard work on behalf of all the youth in Monroe County. The Mayor did remind us of the reality of how prevalent youth violence is in our community. As colleagues in our field, however, we cannot give up the good fight which is to ensure that all youth in Monroe County are served to the best of all our abilities. Our featured speaker, Dr. John P. Kretzmann of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute, brought a message to our community about "Building Communities from the Inside Out." Dr. Kretzmann's message and afternoon workshop were positively received by those that attended. His message was one built on the strength-based approach for looking at our community and our youth. In addition, we were entertained by 11 year-old Timothy Mitchum, who attends the School of the Arts. Timothy wowed the audience with his singing and piano playing. County Executive Maggie Brooks noted that he sounded like "a young Stevie Wonder." I concur. I am almost certain that we will see Timothy on American Idol in the near future! He, along with many young people, attended the breakfast on that very cold, snowy morning; these young people are just a few of the treasures in our community.

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Building Assets Through Positive Youth Development for All Youth





DHS Employees with Commissioner Patricia Stevens, volunteering their time to make Blankets for the Monroe County Foster Care Youth.

Intergenerational No Sew Fleece Blanket Project

Asset Initiative

Several members of both the Rochester Community and the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau (RMCYB) had the incredible opportunity to take part in a service project at the Search Institute Conference. It took place from November 3-5, 2005 in Dallas, Texas and was called Create Fleece Blankets; these blankets were created by conference participants and donated to shelters and organizations in the Dallas area. The group of Rochester participants was told that the blankets would be given in response to the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The Youth Bureau Executive Director Karla Boyce felt that this task was so simple and would have such a great impact on others, why not bring it to Rochester?

The Democrat and Chronicle stated on December 8th, 2005, "Estimates (are) that natural gas prices through the heating season — November to March — could be up as much as 40 percent from a year ago," creating difficult times for many in the Rochester area. It is obvious that not everyone will be able to provide warmth and comfort for his/her family this holiday season, thus it is the initiative of the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau to make available the fuzzy warmth found in Texas. This would be the driving force behind the process of making over 1000 blankets for the Monroe County Foster Care Children.

Since every charitable act begins with asking for help, the Youth Bureau started by asking area fabric providers to donate fabric. Included in this list of retailers was Wal-Mart, whom, to the Youth Bureau's joy, donated \$500 in fleece and materials to the cause. The RMCYB is proud to have started the blanket making process and has finished over 200 blankets with the help of many volunteers. At this time, the RMCYB would like to specifically thank those who took part (listed to the right). If you would like to be a part of this Asset Initiative, please feel free to contact Christine Lennon at (585) 753-6459. ■

The benefit to the community will be both economic as well as putting Rochester and the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau on the map and in the spotlight. The RMCYB has been recognized over the years as a leader for our work in Assets. It is the hard work of all the Youth Asset coordinators from around the county that we owe a debt of gratitude for all their dedication.

We will certainly need all the help and support from our community partners.

As you can well imagine, it will take coming together as a passionate youth-advocating community in order to make this conference a success. We will need all your contributions and talent as we will be responsible for creating the Youth Track for the conference. We must also, with the help of the Greater Rochester Visitors Bureau, need to showcase Rochester and all it has to offer. ■

DHS Asset Builders and Friends

Martha	Alexander	Julia Kay	Lareau
Joyce	Bender	Cindy	Lash
Sue	Bergenstock	Cindy	Liess
Katrina	Best	Ernestine	Lockett
Joan	Bickweat	Bethany	Lockhart
Faith	Broughton	Tracy	Mack
Vernetta	Brown	Inge	Mallory
Dorrie	Champlin	Salena	Mathews
Sharon	Dakin	Matt	McConnochie
Lori	DeJesus	Rosalie	McGuire
Joanne	DeSalvo	Linda	McJury
Sandy	Dickey	JoAnn	Messina
Fanny	Dileterra	Clarita	Metherell
Lisa	Dunn	Judy	Minardo
Maria	Edmond	Contessa	Noye
Pearlie	Floyd	Leah	Nozzi
Nancy	Forgue	Jem	Oliveira
Judith	Gilbert	Peg	Paradis
Lavasya	Grant	Pauline	Rhoda
Luke	Hardy	Pushpa	Sathi
Kim	Hare	Elaine	Schmidt
Jaye	Harmon	Susie	Simmons
Michele	Hildreth	Pat	Smith
Maggie	Ho	Patricia	Stevens
Bill	Hobbs	Pat	Turek
Bill	Hochadel	Anne	Tyll
Chris	Hood	Guy	Valone
Catherine	Howard	Jim	Whelehan
Mary Lee	Huber	Ginger	Wilbert
Yvette	James	LaTonya	Wilcox
Phyllis	Joe	Dave	Yendrzeski
Malquan	Junious		

Upcoming Events

- **Advancing Youth Development (AYD) - A Community Training-** Will be on Tuesdays, March 21st, 28th, and April 4th and AYD Basics Workshop is March 30th. Please contact Chris Dandino for more information at (585) 753-6462.
- **Gang Training with YSQC-** To be held on January 13th and 27th. More information available at (585) 753-6455.
- **Asset Partner Network Monthly Meetings-** Anyone who is interested may attend meetings the first Thursday of every month from 8:30am to 10:30am at United Way on 75 College Ave, 14607. Specific dates are January 6th, February 3rd, and March 10th (note that the March meeting is at a different location: American Red Cross, 50 Prince St).
- **Youth Services Quality Council Meetings -** For more information on Full Council Policy Meetings please contact Kathy Rivera at (585) 753-6457.
- **2006 Willie W. Lightfoot Youth Advocate of the Year and 2006 Young Citizen of the Year Nominations -** Nominations must be postmarked by March 25, 2006 or emailed to rsmith@monroecounty.gov.

BE the CHANGE!

Search Institute Conference

There were several opening speakers deep in the heart of Texas on the morning of Thursday, November 3rd, but one in particular, Craig Kielburger, was really on fire. Kielburger is co-founder and co-chair of a non-profit organization that builds schools for youth in economically under-developed countries called Free the Children. He drew from his experiences as a young leader, traveling to more than 40 countries and meeting with youth and adult changemakers, sharing stories and tangible advice on how to draw out one's passion by moving from Me to We. Kielburger has been nominated 3 times for the Nobel Peace Prize, the first time at the youthful age of 12! His book Me to We discusses how the "Me" generation or the "@ generation is the beginning of a social movement meant to improve one's personal life through serving someone else's life. He urged us to stop the myth that social movements are ended and to inspire others to believe that one person really can change the world.

That is it. This is the Search Institute Conference in a nut shell: You are an Asset, everyone is an asset. The Search Institute is a nonprofit, non-sectarian organization in Minnesota and is the holder of the trademarked Search Institute, 40 Developmental Assets and Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth. The Search Institute says the following about the Asset research:

"Much of the Institute's work in recent years is based on the framework of the 40 developmental Assets, which are positive experiences, relationships, opportunities, and personal qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring, and responsible."

About Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth:

"Healthy Communities-Healthy Youth is a national initiative of the Search Institute that seeks to unite

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Greetings from Karla Boyce, Exec.Dir. cont. from page 1

I am also happy to report that with a great deal of support and effort from our Ameri-Corps worker, Christine Lennon, we were able to pull off the first Intergenerational Asset Building Event at the Department of Human Services. We brought together a diverse group of our colleagues in DHS for the purpose of making fleece blankets for our foster care children in Monroe County. As of today, there are 1026 foster care children in the care and custody of the County. These children deserve something special during the holiday season. Not only did we produce blankets, but this activity served as a vehicle for our DHS Community to recognize the Assets we have. Many employees took the time during their lunch break to participate and to come together as a community for this very successful event. I have been asked to bring this project to the offices at St. Paul Street and we hope to be able to do that in early 2006.

I have not even put a dent in all the other activities, training, and meetings that we have been involved in this year. I would like to thank all my dedicated staff for their thoughtfulness and dedication on behalf of the youth and their families of Monroe County.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All! ■



At top left are DHS employees having fun with fleece blankets and top right is Timothy Mitchum entertaining at the YSQC breakfast.

individuals, organizations, and their leaders to join together in nurturing competent, caring, and responsible children and adolescents. This is accomplished through research, evaluation, resource materials, training, technical assistance, and networking opportunities based on Search Institute's framework of 40 Developmental Assets."



At the Intercontinental in Addison, Texas. From left to right Wilfredo Irizarry (Adonai Community Fellowship), Christine Lennon (RMCYB), Joan Bickweat (RMCYB), Roseann Smith (RMCYB), Anthony Jordan (City Parks and Rec), and Karla Boyce (RMCYB Executive Director).

These two philosophies are the foundation of moving systems from a need-based approach to an asset-based approach; such that programs are built off of what youth hold as potential and not from the deficit standpoint. The conference is an opportunity for communities to come together to define what is working in different areas. In particular, this conference focused on how to bridge the gap, building stronger partnerships for youth and adults, thus creating Intergenerational Communities.

The conference brought in over 1500 youth and adults from all countries, even as far as Australia. Everyone in the conference took part in a drumming session where you could feel the vibrations of every individual's drum through your own drum; this taught us that recognizing how we communicate is the first part to being the Change! ■



Mural Project in the Department of Human Services

Positive Youth Development is an important component of the Rochester-Monroe County Youth Bureau's mission. Executive Director Karla F. Boyce requested that the Youth As Resources (YAR) Board consider designing and creating a festive mural to decorate the reception area at the Monroe County Department of Human Services (DHS). Ms. Boyce believed it was a great way to brighten the lives of youth who visit DHS with their families.

Under the guidance of Tamara Jones, and with the creative talent of Shawn Dunwoody, the Youth as Resources Board designed the mural. It was the desire of the board to give youth visiting the reception area something constructive to do that would brighten their day and encourage their imagination.

It was difficult for the board members to determine the theme of the mural. After long deliberation between an outdoor theme, a gingerbread house, a castle, and an outer space roller coaster, they all compromised on a gingerbread castle that would lead you from outside into the castle and out into space. The idea was to make this wall space interactive, so they wanted the castle to have a kitchen and table; this would be made possible by painting the mural first with magnetic paint and also a chalk compatible paint.

During the actual painting of the mural, there were many participants in the process that did not feel they were capable of mastering the art of painting. However, Mr. Dunwoody continued to encourage everyone by building the confidence of all who participated, thus enabling everyone to be a part of something so imaginative. It is the consensus of the Monroe County Department of Human Services that the Youth as Resources Board has literally brightened the waiting room and the lives of those who partake in the interactive mural. ■



